

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MORE THAN \$2.6 MILLION COMING TO BUTTE COUNTY'S
YOUNGEST CHILDREN**

*First 5 Butte County Invests in Programs Benefiting Children Ages 0 to 5
and Their Families*

(Oroville, Calif.) – Continuing to demonstrate their commitment to the community, First 5 Butte County today announced the availability of more than \$2.6 million for programs and services that serve children ages 0 to 5 and their families throughout the county.

“These funds will enable us to address the critical needs of Butte County’s children,” said Mark Lundberg, M.D., chair of First 5 Butte County. “With our funding over the last five years, we’ve been able to positively shape the lives of our youngest residents. Now we can cast a wider net to reach even more children.”

Since its inception, First 5 Butte County has awarded more than \$10 million in funding to organizations dedicated to improving the lives of young children and their families through home visit, quality child care and oral health programs. This influx of new funding will allow local organizations to create new programs or expand existing services to help more children ages 0 to 5 reach their greatest potential in school and in life.

Organizations can apply for funding for one to three years. Applications for new funds are available by calling (530) 538-6896, by going to the First 5 Butte County Web site at www.cafc.ca.gov/butte or by e-mailing bdunivan@buttecounty.net. Interested organizations are strongly encouraged to attend a Proposers’ Conference to learn more about the application process. The conference will be held Friday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Butte County Board of Supervisors’ Chambers, located at 25 County Center Drive in Oroville.

Research shows that a child’s brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child’s growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 Butte County, also known as the Butte County Children and Families Commission, was established to distribute approximately [\$2 million] a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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